Production of cardamom

4310. SHRI SOM PAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the current year is going to witness a record production of cardamom;

(b) if so, what are the production figures for the past three years and the current year both for the large and the small cardamom, region-wise and State-wise;

(c) what is the total world and country-wise production of the two types of cardamom and where India ranks in these;

(d) whether it is a fact that there is hardly any value addition being effected in these in our country and most of the produce is exported as raw only;

(e) whether it is also a fact in the absence of any modern drying and processing facility, a substantial portion of cardamom is wasted;

(f) if so, what is being done in this regard; and

(g) what are ths possibilities of value .-ddition in this field ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The estimated production figures for 1993-94 are given below :—

(i) Cardamom (Small) 6700 MTs.

(ii) Cardamom (Large) 3700 MTs.

(b) State-wise production (estimated) of Cardamom (Small) and Cardamom (Large) are :

Cardamom (Small)				Production in M. T.
State	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 (P)
Kerala	3450	3450	2570	4360
Tamil Nadu . . .	500	500	480	600
Karnataka . . .	800	1050	1200	1740
TOTAL . .	4750	5000	4250	6700
Cardamom (Large) :				
Sikkim . . .	3800	2850	3010	3100
West Bengal . . .	600	550	540	600
TOTAL	4400	3400	3550	3700

(c) The world production of small cardamom as also the production of India and Gautemala is as under :—

Year	World	India	Gautemala
1988-89	16405	4250	11305
1989-90	15078	3100	11076
1990-91	16074	4750	11114
1991-92	18375	5000	13165
1992-93	Not available	4250	Not available

Exact country-wise figures in case of large cardamom are not available. However, India is the largest producer and consumer of large cardamom in the world Nepal is the next important producer followed by Bhutan.

(d) Most of the cardamom produce is expo-ted in raw form became of consumer preference and nature of use in the im porting countries. A small quantity of car damom oil is being exported from India.

(e) aid (f) No, Sir. Cardamom is pro cessed after harvesting through scientific curing in curing house:;. The system of curing using thermal energy in a curing chamber with fine pipes was perfected over years. This is better and cheaper than electric dry'ne:. Uniform drying of capsules (fruits) and better colour reten tion (parrot green colour) is ensured under this system- Spices Board has assisted the

farmers to set up their own curing houses. Curing houses have been set up by growers with financial and technical assistance from the Board in production areas.

(g) Value added products viz. cardamom cola, cardamom flavoured biscuits, chewing gum and candy were developed using cardamom small with the assistance of Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore and International Trade Centre, Geneva.

In respect of cardamom large, Board has introduced scientific curing methods for uniform drying and retention of colour with the technical assistance from CFTRI, Mysore. With the result, the price fetched for the produce has appreciated and uniform colour is retained ensuing consumer acceptance.

Position of Multi-Fibre Agreement in view of GATT

4311. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHAN-DRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the exact position of the Multi-Fibre Agreement with USA in view of GATT ;

(b) whether Government have received any representations from the industry with respect to this; and

(c) what is Government's policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) The textiles bilateral agreement between India and the USA has been extended for a further period of one year i.e. 1994 on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in New Delhi on January, 22, 1994. The Memorandum of Understanding also provides for a further extension of the bilateral agreement by one year in cass the Uruguay Round transition arrangement does not come into force by 1st January, 1995.

The extended bilateral agreement provides for p.dditional access of 8% over and above the total level that would have been available for 1994 on the basis of a simple roll over of* the agreement with the existing growth rates.

As and when the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round comes into effect the bilateral agreement between the U.S. and the India will cease to have effect. However, the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing in the Final Act envisages that the restraint levels. and growth rates provided for in the bilateral agreement for various categories would determine the access for these resained categories during the transition period till such time as they are integrated into the GATT. The Exporting community in India has welcomed the Indo-US textile agreement entered into between the two countries in the last week of January, 1994.

Working of Trade Development Authority

4312. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHAN-DRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the members of the Trade Development Authority and their respective qualifications;

(b) the reports which have been prepared by the Trade Development Authority during the year ending 31st March, 1994;

(c) whether any evaluation has been done about the working of the Trade Development Authority and if so, the details (hereof; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Trade Development Authority is still relevant in view of the new Trade Policy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) There is currently no organisation by the name and title of Trade Development Authority (TDA). The erstwhile TDA was dissolved on 31st December, 1991 and merged with erstwhile Trade Fair Authority of India (TFAI) on 1st January, 1992 to form a new organisation under the name of India Trade Promotion Organisation (TTPO) which was registered with Registrar of Companies on 23rd April, 1992. 163 officers and staff of erstwhile TDA were absorbed into the new organisation.

(b) The Trade Development and Merchandising Division and Computer and Information Division of ITPO which are looking after the functions of erstwhile